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CIA Knew of False Testimony

Associated Press

Central Intelligence Agency officials knew that an employee of International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. would testify falsely before a Senate subcommittee investigating agency activities in Chile, according to federal court records.

[A federal grand jury here has been investigating the possibility of perjury by top ranking officers of ITT as well as by former CIA Director Richard Helms and other officials as an outgrowth of their testimony to the Senate Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations in 1973.]

Justice Department attorney Walter May told a federal court in Miami last month that Harold V. Hendrix, former ITT public relations director in Latin America, informed the CIA about his intention to withhold from the committee the fact that he had been in contact with the CIA. May said his statement was based on a study of CIA files and on interviews with agency officials.

May's remarks came during Nov. 30 proceedings in the U.S. District Court for Southern Florida at which Hendrix pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor

charge for withholding information in 1973 from the Senate Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations.

The court record makes clear that Hendrix pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor, which brought a one-month suspended sentence and a \$100 fine, as part of the bargain to cooperate with the Justice Department. The department was investigating possible perjury committed by CIA and ITT officials before the Senate subcommittee, chaired by Frank Church (D-Idaho).

On March 21, 1973, Hendrix was asked under oath the source of a report Hendrix forwarded to ITT executives that U.S. Ambassador Edward Korry had been given "the green light" to move in the name of President Nixon to block Salvador Allende's election.

Hendrix replied that the source "was a Chilean who was a professional acquaintance of mine. . . . He was very highly placed in the Christian Democratic Party organization."

May said in court that CIA cables revealed that Hendrix's information "came from the CIA station chief [in] Santiago and to some extent from the American ambassador himself."